



Kentucky Geologists

Volume 10 Issue 2

December 2008

Mission

The mission of the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists is to regulate the public practice of geology in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth from negligent, incompetent, or fraudulent practices.

Board

Thomas P. Ryavec, *Chairman*
Larry Rhodes, *Vice Chairman*
Gil W. Cumbee
Stephen R. Wyatt, *Public-at-Large*
James C. Cobb, *State Geologist, Ex-Officio*

Kentucky Division of Occupations & Professions

Frances S. Short, *Director*
Dana Hockensmith,
Board Administrator

Office of the Attorney General

Mark Brengelman,
Board Attorney

Contact Information

Registration Questions:

Dana Hockensmith,
Board Administrator
Kentucky Division of
Occupations & Professions
P.O. Box 1360
Frankfort KY 40602
502-564-3296 ext. 240 tel
502-564-4818 fax
dana.hockensmith@ky.gov

Newsletter Comments:

Judith Hower,
Communications Specialist
Kentucky Geological Survey
228 Mining & Mineral Resources
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY 40506-0107
859-277-0777 tel
859-257-1147 fax
judith.hower@uky.edu
<http://www.ppc.ky.gov/>

As an agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists is solely funded by applicants and credential holders, and receives no tax dollars.

From the Chairman

These are difficult economic times and we have witnessed an unprecedented number of major corporate collapses over a very short period in which your tax dollars are being used to bail out these corporate giants. Whether this action is right or wrong will be determined over the next several years.

An action however, that your board believes is wrong occurred this year when money was transferred from the funds of the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists to the General Fund. The Kentucky Legislature's House Bill 406 temporarily suspends the statute that normally protects your registration fees and defines them as funds to be used at the discretion of the board and not as part of the General Fund. This legislative action allowed the Kentucky Legislature to transfer funds from this board and other occupational boards into the General Fund. The total amount from all professional boards was \$5.5 million this year; another \$3.6 million will be transferred to Kentucky's General Fund next year. This money will be used in the same manner as other tax dollars and will not be returned to the individual boards.

The amount of money transferred this fiscal year from our board account was \$50,000 and another transfer of \$126,000 is legislated for next year. This total transfer represents over 70% of the funds that the board currently has at its disposal to protect the public. Over the years this board has managed the money generated primarily from registration fees so that the account had a cash surplus above the amount necessary for normal operations. The action taken by the legislature has not only taken this surplus cash, but with the transfer of funds next year will jeopardize the board's ability to function.



Tom Ryavec, PG, Board Chairman

The board objected to this action in a letter to Representative Harry Moberly Jr. before the legislature took this action through HB 406 and then again in a recent letter to object to the transfer of the additional money. As you may have read

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**Welcome
New Registrants!**

Professional Geologists

7/23/2008:

Moore, Jeffrey A. (GA)
Reynolds, Robert J. (IN)
Treschow, Steven James
(PA)

8/21/2008:

Spencer, Donald E. (TN)

9/15/2008:

Prange, Gary (IN)

11/13/2008:

Dressel, Peter J. (NC)

11/19/2008:

Stuck, Richard James (OH)

11/24/2008:

Cox, Michael H. (AL)

12/09/2008

M. Kent Adkins (OH)

12/10/2008:

Cleary, Michael S. (KY)
Culpepper, Joni M. (OH)
Lam, James D. (KY)
Hintz, Darin A. (OH)
Pollock, Mark D. (TN)
Thompson, Samuel P. (KY)
Tharpe, W. Todd (KY)

Geologists-in-Training

**No persons added since
May 8, 2008.**

Total registrants

1562 Professional Geologists
9 Geologists-in-Training

Calendar

**Board Meetings
Tentative 2009 Schedule**

February 3
April 6
June 8
August 3
October 5
December 7

Time: 1:30 p.m. (ET)

Location:
Div. of Occupations & Professions
911 Leawood Drive
Frankfort, Kentucky

*Note: Dates are subject to change. Please call
the Board office, if you plan to attend.*

2009

Exam date

03/06/2009

10/02/2009

**Application
deadline**

12/30/2008

7/29/2009

ASBOG 2009 Annual Meeting

November 5 – 7
Birmingham, AL

**Council on Examiners
Workshop**

November 5 – 6
Birmingham, AL

Board Actions

Complaint review report

The board reviewed one complaint this
calendar year.

Board legal actions

The board voted to file Notice of
Administrative Hearing to start
statutorily authorized due process
disciplinary action proceedings on one
complaint.

Licensee disciplinary actions

No actions were finalized since the last
announcements.

**Public Protection
Cabinet formed**

On June 15, 2008, Governor Steve
Beshear signed an executive order
creating a Public Protection Cabinet
(PPC). The Division of Occupations and
Professions is one of several state regula-
tory bodies administered under this
umbrella. Organizationally, the Division of
Occupations and Professions will operate
out of the Cabinet Secretary's office. The
Division's street address remains un-
changed. We can now be found on the
Web at <http://www.ppc.ky.gov/>.

ASBOG exam results

October, 2008

	Pass	Fail	% Pass
Fundamentals	4	5	44.4%
Practice	7	1	87.5%



The evolution of geosciences at Eastern Kentucky University

*by John White, PhD, Chairman
Department of Geography and
Geology, EKU*

Geoscience at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) has experienced transformative change over the past few years, and especially over the past year and a half. Most significantly, the Departments of Earth Science and Geography merged in Fall 2007, to become the Department of Geography and Geology. The faculty members of this new department have diverse interests that include igneous petrology and volcanology, hydrogeology, geochemistry, soil science, land use and planning, conservation and the environment, weather and climate, paleoclimate, geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing, travel and tourism, and geoscience and geographic education. The regional interests among our faculty are similarly diverse, with active research and scholarship endeavors in the Himalaya, Southeastern Asia, Oceania, Southern Italy and Sicily, Ecuador, the American Southwest, and – of course – Ohio and Kentucky!

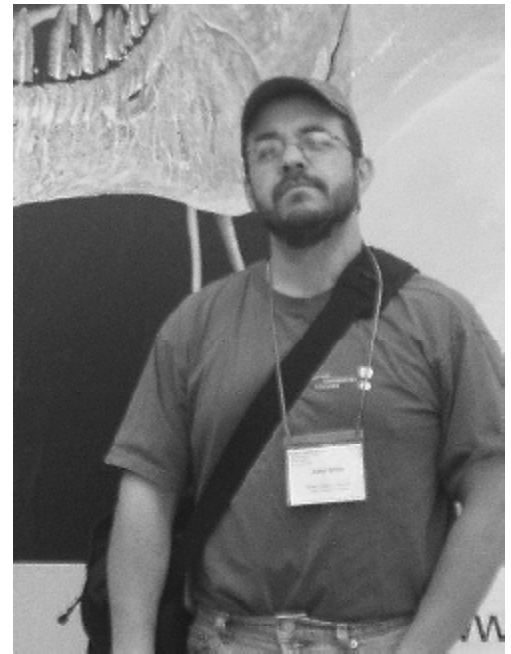
A second significant change in geosciences at EKU over the past year is the suspension of our graduate program in response to state budget cuts for higher education and relatively low enrollments and graduation rates (12 M.S. degrees awarded in the past 5 years).

In contrast, we have experienced resurgence in both undergraduate enrollments (more than 40 majors each in geology and geography)

and graduation rates and have begun redirecting our resources toward improving these programs. Over the past 5 years we have awarded an average of 5.5 B.S. Geology degrees. Last year we awarded 7 and anticipate a similar (or higher) number in 2008. If my mineralogy class is a reliable bellwether, consider this: sections in the past 3 years had fewer than 10 students enrolled; this year class enrollment is nearly 20! Clearly our national energy crisis has played a role in increasing enrollments; larger numbers of our graduates have been employed by the oil industry after graduation.

In response to this resurgence we are currently modifying our curriculum to keep pace with industry requirements. A new course in petroleum geology is being developed, which will be first offered in Spring 2009. This course will be a project-oriented class that will introduce students to the PETRA+ software. Our curriculum is also being adjusted to prepare our geology students to take the fundamentals of geology exam of the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG) as a step toward careers as professional geologists in Kentucky or elsewhere. In addition, we are increasing our GIS and remote sensing emphasis; these techniques are applicable to a wide range of careers in the geosciences, including geologic mapping, oil and gas exploration, hydrogeology, and environmental and urban land use planning.

Of course, interest among our students for careers in the environmental sciences is high, and continues to be a departmental strength that has been bolstered by the recent geography/geology merger. Examples of hands-on projects conducted by faculty and students include a collaboration



*John White, PhD, Chairman, Department of
Geography and Geology, Eastern Kentucky
University*

with the Eastern Kentucky Environmental Research Institute (EK-ERI) that has resulted in a thorough study of water quality at Lake Wilgreen, a reservoir near Richmond. Similarly our faculty and students are involved with the development of the Kentucky Mesonet, a network of climate monitoring systems designed to improve weather forecasting and benefit numerous sectors of the Commonwealth's economy.

To learn more about our program, I invite you to contact me at 859-622-1276.

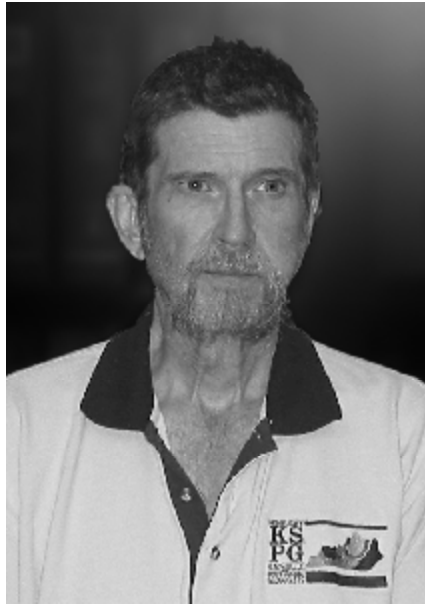
9th Annual Technical Forum
Geohazards in Transportation
in the Appalachian Region

Embassy Suites
Lexington, KY
August 4 – 6, 2009

Sponsored by Appalachian Transportation
Institute, Ctr. for Environmental and
Applied Sciences, Marshall University,
Kentucky Transportation Ctr., and the
Kentucky Geological Survey.

New Board Appointments

Mr. Gil Cumbee, PG, and Mr. Larry Rhodes, PG, were appointed to the Board of Registration for Professional Geologists by Governor Steve Beshear and sworn in to four-year terms at the August 4, 2008, board meeting. Mr. Rhodes returns to the board having previously served a four-year term beginning in 2001, during which time he served three years as board chairman.



Gil Cumbee, PG

Meet the Board

Gil Cumbee

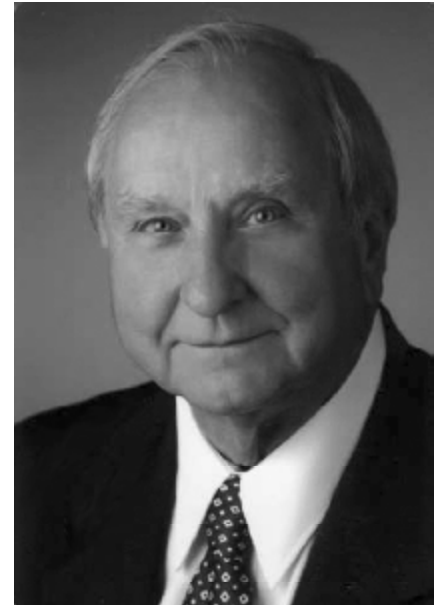
Mr. Cumbee has more than 30 years of professional experience in the practice of geology. Since 1995, he has been employed as an environmental geologist and project manager by Geoscience Consultants, Inc., in Georgetown, Kentucky; for the past seven years he has also served as their vice president of operations. Previously, he was employed as a geologist by Aquaterra, Inc. (a subsidiary of Great Lakes Chemical Corp.), OXY USA, Inc. (a domestic oil and gas exploration and production subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum), the Kentucky Geological Survey, and the US Geological Survey.

Mr. Cumbee has held leadership roles in the Kentucky Section of the American Institute for Professional Geology (AIPG) and has been active in the Association of Ground Water Scientists

and Engineers, the National Ground Water Association, the Geological Society of America, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists, the Oklahoma City Geological Society, and Professional Geologists of Indiana. In addition to being registered to practice geology in Kentucky, Mr. Cumbee is registered to practice geology in Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee. Mr. Cumbee is a certified professional geologist through AIPG. He is a certified well driller in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Mr. Cumbee is a graduate of Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana, and has completed additional post-graduate coursework in geology at the University of Louisville, Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University.

Larry Rhodes

Mr. Rhodes brings to his position more than 40 years of experience as a professional geologist in the private sector. From 1971 to 2004, he owned and operated businesses specializing in geologic and geotechnical engineering services that included drilling and direct push services in support of mineral exploration, geotechnical, and environmental projects; pre-construction



Larry Rhodes, PG

evaluations, materials testing, and construction monitoring; and hydrologic investigations and monitoring well installation. Currently, Mr. Rhodes is employed as Vice President at the Lexington office of TEE Engineering Company Inc.

Mr. Rhodes has served as an officer at both the state and national levels of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) and has received numerous awards in recognition for his service. At the national level he received the Martin Van Couvering Memorial Award in 2008 in recognition of his many years of service to AIPG. In addition, he is active in the Geological Society of America (fellow), the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists, the Kentucky Geotechnical Engineering Group, the East Kentucky Coal Prep and Engineering Society, and the Kentucky Paleontological Society. He was a voting delegate from Kentucky for the Association of State Boards of Geology in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2008. In addition, he served on the University of Kentucky (UK) Geoscience Department Advisory Board from 1995 through 2005.

Mr. Rhodes earned his B.S. in geology at the University of Kentucky and is a registered geologist with AIPG and in six states: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and Virginia. Mr. Rhodes is also a registered monitoring well driller in Kentucky.

Online Dye-Trace Notification System

Energy and Environment Cabinet – Kentucky Division of Water

The Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) has implemented a new online dye-trace notification system that replaces the previous fax/telephone notification system. This tool is intended to streamline the reporting process, increase accuracy and information sharing, and allow researchers to easily identify and coordinate with the trace efforts of other professionals.

The dye-trace notification system is voluntary as the Commonwealth of Kentucky does not regulate or require permits for tracer testing. However, it is unlawful to discolor the waters of the Commonwealth per 401 KAR 5:031, Section 2. Although small amounts of environmentally safe dyes are typically used in properly conducted traces, concerned citizens may occasionally observe and report discolored waters. To avoid unnecessary complaint investigations by KDOW or other state and local agencies, and to inform the caller that the tracer test is temporary and harmless, proposed dye tests should be reported to KDOW. Another advantage of this tool is that users can access a table displaying information on all tracer tests conducted in the last 30 days. This information includes the notification number, counties affected, water bodies affected, dye(s) used, injection date and expected monitoring period. The information does not include the investigator. This prior notification may prevent potential cross-contamination of existing groundwater studies. If necessary, individual users may request contact information for other investigators listed on the Previous Notifications table.

Access to the notification system requires the user to set up an account at the website listed below. This account is password protected and requires the submittal of basic information in the form of a User Profile. Once your account is set up dye trace notifications may be submitted at any time. If investigators do not have Internet access they can still submit dye-trace notifications via fax or telephone that will be entered into the system by KDOW personnel.

If you have questions, concerns or experience any problems with the system, please contact Rob Blair at (502)564-3410, ext. 4944 or via email robert.blair@ky.gov. Our website is <http://www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/karst/DyeTrace/>.

Message from the Chairman

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in the newspapers, Kentucky is in a budget crisis with shortfalls in the hundreds of millions of dollars. It seems unreasonable that the transfer of these funds can have an impact on a budget crisis of this magnitude. However, this transfer does create a real budget crisis for this board and for other professional boards and puts us in a position of being insolvent within the next two years.

Of course, the solution recommended by the Kentucky Division of Occupations and Professions is to raise registration fees. By raising registration fees the board would be able to reestablish the previous account balance. The problem is that another legislative action would take these funds again and the cycle would continue. This board is opposed to raising your registration fees and is taking the position of maintaining the minimum operating balance. We have reviewed our current levels of expenditures and it appears that this is a viable position at this time. The only risk is that a significant legal action taken to protect the public would be difficult to fund.

I recommend that each of you contact your legislative representatives in state government and express your opinion about this form of taxation. The state is attempting to drive the professional boards toward insolvency and force them to raise additional money by raising registration fees. The fund transfers under HB 406 are similar to transfers that were imposed on professional boards in other years. This strategy has become what appears to be an endless cycle and never addresses the real problems of overspending and waste within state government.

Thomas P. Ryavec, PG
Chairman, Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists

2008 annual ASBOG meeting

The National Association of State Boards of Geologists (ASBOG) held its 19th annual meeting November 4 – 9 in St. Charles, Illinois. Larry Rhodes represented the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists at the business portion of the meeting. Actions of interest included the following:

- Nine amendments to the ASBOG charter and 11 amendments to the by-laws were passed with few changes. Mr. Rhodes voted in favor of all the proposals as agreed at the October 13, 2008 board meeting in Lexington.
- There was discussion, due to increasing costs, of raising member board dues from \$2,950 to about \$4,000 at a future date, probably by 2011.
- An ASBOG foundation is in the planning stages and will probably be formed in the near future.
- A PowerPoint presentation related to the Fundamentals of Geology examination is available for use by universities.
- There was some discussion of requiring specialty examinations or specialty codes in the future.
- The final item of business was the election of the 2009 Executive Committee:

Lisa E. Hosey (MO)	President
Michael R. Kunz (MN)	President-Elect
Richard K. Spruill (NC)	Treasurer
Jeffery H. Randall (WA)	Secretary
Wilson H. Herrod (WY)	Immediate Past President

The next annual meeting will be held November 5 – 7, 2009 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kentucky Geologists is published semiannually by the Kentucky Board of Registration for Professional Geologists. The publication features topics relevant to the ethical practice of geology in the Commonwealth. Suggestions for the newsletter should be directed to Judith Hower, Communications Specialist, Kentucky Geological Survey, 228 Mining & Mineral Resources Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington KY 40506-0107, (859) 277-0777; FAX (859) 257-1147 <judith.hower@uky.edu>.



**Kentucky Board of Registration for
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228 Mining & Mineral Resources Building
University of Kentucky
Lexington KY 40506-0107

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